

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims in the application are new claims 14-23 .

35 USC 112 REJECTIONS

It is respectfully submitted that the 35 USC 112 rejections of the now-cancelled claims 8-13 are avoided and/or overcome by the new claims 14-23.

35 USC 103 REJECTION

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 USC 103 rejection of the now-cancelled claims 8-13, especially in view of the new claims 14-23.

Applicant's traversal of the obviousness rejection can perhaps best be understood in light of the following explanation

Applicant's claimed apparatus is an applicator comprising a plurality of needles fixed in a base member made from a resilient material.

The purpose of the apparatus according to the invention is to excite as many receptors in the user's body as possible with needles of metals and/or alloys thereof having unlike charges, with the needles being arranged such that around each of them there are needles of different metals and/or alloys thereof.

Furthermore, the difference in potentials between each pair of adjacent coating layers on the needles and between each pair of the needles causes a set of various galvanic microcurrents to flow at the point of contact of a needle and the epidermis.

The galvanic microcurrents induced at the needle points as well as the microcurrents flowing between needles of different metals or alloys thereof and between coatings of different

metals and/or alloys thereof covering the needles cause electrophoresis (diffusion) of these metals and oxides thereof into the internal environment of the body.

Heterogeneity of the electrobiochemical state of the epidermis under interaction with various metals constituting the needles surfaces is the cause of self-regulation of microcurrent variables between the needles of different metals, at the needles points, and between different needle-coating metals, and, as a consequence, substances indispensable on the epidermis or within and medicinal preparations resulting from the vital functions or applied onto the skin are stimulated.

As a result of exposure of the user's skin to the applicator, a non-homogenous electric field is established to provide for the uniformity of ionic and electric fields of the epidermis which was disturbed by a disease. Consequently, regeneration is observed not only in the skin as such or in the area exposed to the applicator, but in all regulatory systems of the organism as a whole.

A set of needles of metals and/or alloys thereof carrying unlike charges, the needles being uniformly arranged over the whole surface of the resilient base member in several parallel and mutually perpendicular rows (in a cellular fashion), enables a simultaneous multiple acupuncture of the skin surface by way of reflex, massage and galvanic effect when the applicator is variously applied onto the user's body with due account of reflex acupuncture points and zones of various systems of skin and organs as well as the meridians of the human internal organs.

In other words, there are produced reflexotherapeutic and electrophoretic effects, and a proper heterogenic three-dimensional ionic and electrical field is established on the surface of a human body.

It is significant that the use of the applicator as specified in the new claims 14-23 provides for the transport of metals indispensable for a human individual not only to the epidermis, but to

the inner tissue and the systems of the organism, whereby there is an effective release and redistribution of energy, improvements in local blood circulation, trophism and activation of vital processes.

In contrast, the cited Choi US Pat. No. 5,676,684 discloses a plate with needles for pulse acupuncture. Furthermore, the Choi apparatus is complicated. To operate it, additional external electrical, magnetic or electromagnetic radiation sources of greater power than galvanic influence are required. These constitute intricate and complicated additional facilities. Furthermore, the Choi plate having an arcuate form precludes involvement of the needles in the acupuncture process.

In further contrast, the cited Bajada US Pat. No. 4,823,806 discloses an apparatus for testing the sensory system on humans and animals. Thus, the Bajada apparatus is designed for a completely different purpose than applicant's invention.

In addition, the Bajada apparatus is provided with needles arranged radially on a rigid rotatable disc.

In even greater contrast, the cited Gabrusenok SU 1264942 discloses a single needle to be secured on the body by means of an adhesive tape, rather than an arrangement of a plurality of needles made from different metals and/or alloys thereof and being at different electrochemical potentials to thereby produce quite a different result.

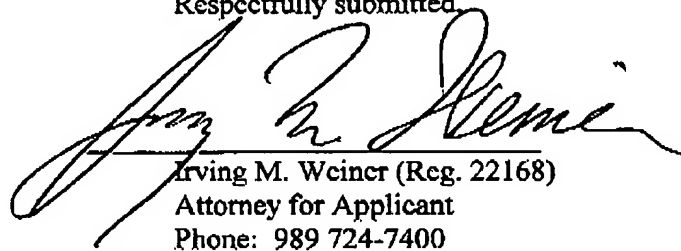
Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as defined in new claims 14-23 is not obvious in view of the references cited in the last OA with respect to the now-cancelled claims 8-13.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is not convinced that the application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner promptly telephone the undersigned attorney for applicant in an attempt to facilitate the prosecution, and/or to narrow the issues for appeal, if necessary.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

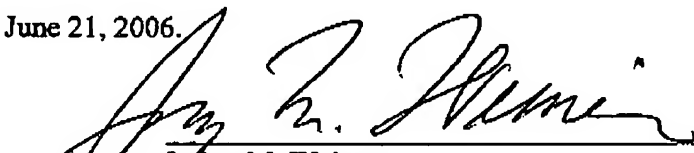
Respectfully submitted,


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Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment-C was sent by facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents at 571-273-8300 on June 21, 2006.


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